

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign's  
3 (UIUC) dedication to adapted sports programs for varsity  
4 students with physical disabilities is unparalleled; and

5 WHEREAS, UIUC sponsored one of the first collegiate  
6 wheelchair basketball teams in the country and was one of the  
7 charter members of the National Wheelchair Basketball  
8 Association in 1949; and

9 WHEREAS, The proposed collaboration of the State of  
10 Illinois, UIUC, and the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics  
11 provides the future sport sponsorship support and recognition  
12 for wheelchair athletics at UIUC; and

13 WHEREAS, The University has become the hub of technology,  
14 research and advancement in wheelchair sports and has been at  
15 the forefront of improvements and modifications of  
16 wheelchairs for enhanced player participation; and

17 WHEREAS, In recent years, the University's continued  
18 dedication to adapted varsity sports is evident through their  
19 nationally acclaimed basketball and track and field  
20 wheelchair teams, as well as their support for individuals  
21 participating in other sports programs; and

22 WHEREAS, UIUC wheelchair athletics partnered with the  
23 Illinois High School Association piloted the first State-wide  
24 model in the nation for interscholastic wheelchair basketball  
25 competition, providing athletic opportunities to high school  
26 students with disabilities across all 102 counties within  
27 Illinois; and

28 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini Men's Wheelchair Basketball  
29 team has won ten National Intercollegiate Championship  
30 titles, played in every National Wheelchair Basketball  
31 Association post-season tournament, as well as winning three

1 open titles prior to intercollegiate play; the Fighting  
2 Illini Women's Wheelchair Basketball team has won nine  
3 National Women's Basketball Tournament Championships and  
4 holds the record for the most consecutive national titles;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, A long line of successful and historically  
7 significant wheelchair basketball coaches, including Dr.  
8 Timothy Nuggent, Dr. Brad Hedrick, and Dr. Bob Szyman,  
9 continue to dedicate their time, resources, and energy to the  
10 UIUC Men's and Women's Wheelchair Basketball programs that  
11 are currently under the direction of internationally renowned  
12 Head Coach, Michael Frogley; and

13 WHEREAS, The University's adapted varsity sports program  
14 has sent many of its elite players on to compete in national  
15 and international competitions, including eight current  
16 students, four recent graduates, four alternates and numerous  
17 UIUC alums attending the 2000 Paralympics Games in Sydney,  
18 Australia; and

19 WHEREAS, Ms. Lauren Reynolds, a University of Illinois  
20 junior swimmer, won three swimming medals in the 2000  
21 Paralympics in Sydney, Australia, a gold medal in the 400  
22 meter freestyle, a silver medal in the 100 meter freestyle  
23 and 4X100 free relay, and set a world record in the 400 meter  
24 freestyle; and

25 WHEREAS, Ms. Reynolds has served as an inspiration and  
26 role model to thousands of children and students with  
27 disabilities, helping them set and reach their goals in life;  
28 in recognition of her significant contributions, Ms. Reynolds  
29 was named the Wheelchair Sports USA's Female Athlete of the  
30 Year in 2000; and

31 WHEREAS, Ms. Reynolds is a junior and Speech Pathology  
32 major at UIUC and is the only athlete with a disability to be

1 chosen for the varsity women's swimming team; and

2 WHEREAS, The University's dedication to adapted varsity  
3 sports program has created an important forum for students  
4 with disabilities to compete with their peers in athletic  
5 programs while helping individuals build self-confidence,  
6 team work and setting personal goals; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
8 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 we salute and recognize the University of Illinois, its  
10 President, Chancellors, Board of Trustees, and athletes for  
11 its commitment to providing increased opportunities for  
12 athletes with disabilities to participate in varsity sports  
13 and encourage them to expand those opportunities; and be it  
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives congratulates  
16 and recognizes Ms. Lauren Reynolds for her dedication,  
17 perseverance, and hard work in not only the sport of swimming  
18 but in her leadership and example to all children and  
19 citizens with disabilities to strive to do their personal  
20 best; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
22 presented to the University of Illinois, its President,  
23 Chancellors, Board of Trustees, and Athletic Director as a  
24 symbol of our support and appreciation for their continuing  
25 support for varsity athletics for students with disabilities.